

DRAWINGS AMENDMENTS:

One sheet of replacement drawings is attached hereto including Fig. 3(d). In the attached replacement sheet of drawings, the reference number "21" on the left in Fig. 3(d) was changed to --12--, as suggested in the outstanding Office action. Applicant respectfully requests that the original sheet of drawings including Fig. 3(d) be replaced with the attached replacement sheet of drawings including Fig. 3(d).

REMARKS:

Applicant greatly appreciates the acknowledgment of applicant's claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and the receipt of the priority document in part 12 of the Office Action Summary. Applicant also greatly appreciates the copies of three forms PTO-1449 initial by Examiner Timothy V. Eley that were received with the Office action, indicating that the submissions in the information disclosure statement filed together with the application and the supplemental information disclosure statement were considered.

The foregoing amendments include amendments to the abstract of the disclosure and the specification disclosure. The abstract of the disclosure and the specification disclosure were amended as kindly suggested in the outstanding Office action. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the abstract of the disclosure and the specification disclosure, which were set forth in the outstanding Office action.

The foregoing amendments amended claim 1 by incorporating the limitations of claims 8 and 9 therein. Claims 8 and 9 were canceled accordingly. Editorial amendments were made to claims 4, 10-12, 14, and 15. Claims 1-7 and 10-16 remain in the application for consideration by the examiner.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Official action noted four items that were considered vague and indefinite. The foregoing amendments include amendments to claims 1 and 15, which corrects the alleged indefiniteness therein. For example, amended claim 1 refers to the finger support being securable *respectively* to the joint portion of each blade (i.e., the first blade and the

second blade). Amended claim 1 also defines that the finger *support* of the first and second handle portions *respectively* face each other when the first and second blades are held in a closed state. Amended claim 4 includes this latter amendment. In addition, the beginning portion of the last paragraph of claim 1 was rewritten to better define the structures set forth therein. The amendment to claim 15 changed the expression "a third hypothetical plane" to -- another hypothetical plane --, a first hypothetical plane now being defined in claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7 and 10-16 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

One sheet of replacement drawings is attached hereto including Fig. 3(d). In the attached replacement sheet of drawings, the reference number "21" on the left in Fig. 3(d) was changed to --12--, as suggested in the outstanding Office action. Applicant respectfully requests that the original sheet of drawings including Fig. 3(d) be replaced with the attached replacement sheet of drawings including Fig. 3(d) and that any objection to the drawings be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 9-13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the foregoing amendments, the limitations of claims 9 were inserted into independent claim 1 from which it depended. Amended claim 1 is inclusive in scope to a rewritten claim 9 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 10-12 and 14 were amended to depend from amended claim 1. Accordingly, the remaining claims 2-7

and 10-16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and therefore, are also in condition for allowance.

The Official action set forth a single prior art rejection of claims 1-8 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Since the limitations of allowable claim 9 were incorporated into independent claim 1, as discussed above, applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-7 and 10-16 are respectfully requested. While it is believed that the present response places the application in condition for allowance, should the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which may become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
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